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RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1500  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 1051  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 8015  
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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0471  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 002937

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/25/2026

TAGS: PREL UNSC BR GM IN CH JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN PRESSING FOR A MEETING WITH THE U.S. ON UNSC  
REFORM

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer. Reasons:1.4 (b/d).

¶1. (C) Summary: Japan hopes to receive a response to the proposal on UN Security Council reform that Foreign Minister Aso passed to Secretary Rice during their May 2 meeting prior to the June 29 Summit, according to MOFA UN Policy Division Director Shigeki Takizaki. In addition, Japan "needs" a meeting between U/S Burns and either Deputy Foreign Minister Nishida or DVFM Kohno "anywhere in the world" prior to the Bush-Koizumi Summit to discuss the proposal in detail, Takizaki asserts. End Summary.

¶2. (C) During a May 24 meeting with Poloff, MOFA UN Policy Division Director Shigeki Takizaki briefly described the proposal for UNSC expansion that Foreign Minister Aso passed to Secretary Rice during their May 2 meeting. This proposal, "Option D," consists of two stages, he explained, with Stage One calling for a maximum of two new permanent members, each of whom would require support from two-thirds of members states. One or both new seats could remain vacant if no candidate received the required two-thirds' vote. Stage One also allows for four new nonpermanent members, with one allotted to each of the four geographic regions. In Stage Two, the new arrangement would be reviewed after ten or 15 years and, if found appropriate, two more permanent members could be added. Takizaki explained that the new proposal was initiated by "one of the other G-4 members," whom he declined to identify. The proposal has been shared with very few other countries and with few officials within the Japanese government, he noted.

¶3. (C) Japan, Takizaki continued, has no guarantee that it would be one of the two new permanent members under the new proposal but is willing to "take that risk" in order to accommodate U.S. concerns. Before moving forward, however, Japan needs assurance that the United States would not interfere or oppose the proposal. Japan is still waiting to hear back on the paper that FM Aso gave the Secretary. Japan "definitely needs" a meeting between U/S Burns and either DFM Nishida or DVFM Kohno "anywhere in the world" prior to the June 29 Summit to discuss the proposal in detail, Takizaki asserted.

¶4. (C) Asked how he thought China would respond to "Option D," Takizaki suggested that China "might be okay with it." (Note: Takizaki revealed that Japan and China would be holding Director General-level talks on UN reform-related issues later in the summer. They held the last such talks in

December 2005.) More important than support from China or the African Union, he stressed, was a "go sign" from the United States.

¶5. (C) Comment: Obtaining a permanent UNSC seat continues to be a high priority for some MOFA officials. We expect them to use every opportunity to elicit U.S. support for a concrete proposal acceptable to two-thirds of UNGA members

SCHIEFFER